

July 2, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATUS REPORT ON CHILD HEALTH AND EDUCATION PASSPORT PILOT PROJECT

On February 20, 2001, your Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services in collaboration with the Chief Information Officer, Chief Probation Officer, Directors of Mental Health and Health Services, and the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the design and implementation of Child Health and Education Passport System (Passport).
2. Assist the Chief Administrative Officer's Service Integration Branch (SIB) with the preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for development and implementation of Passport, which shall be issued within 60 days; and assist SIB in developing the Advanced Planning Document (APD).

In addition, you instructed my office to oversee the development and implementation of Passport and to report back to the Board every 60 days regarding its progress. This is the seventh status report on the development and implementation of the child health and education passport pilot project.

The Advanced Planning Document (APD) was submitted by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) on April 4, 2002 to the Federal Administration of Children and Families (ACF) and State Departments of Finance (DOF) and Information Technology (DOIT) for approval.

On May 29, 2002, a meeting was held with the above State departments and a representative from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), to review the initial questions, comments from the State, our responses, and discuss other primary issues. The following are the primary issues raised by DOF and DOIT:

- **Minimize the impact on CWS/CMS, eliminate interface, and legislative requirement.**

DOF indicated their concern that the pilot should not require a modification and interface to the CWS/CMS until it had been evaluated and determined to be successful. The LAO disagreed with this being an issue of the negotiations on the legislation. Representatives from Los Angeles County quoted the portion of the bill that requires that the APD shall include, but not be limited to, the design of an interface between the Internet-based Passport and the CWS/CMS so that information entered into the Passport shall automatically and permanently reside in the CWS/CMS. DOF indicated they had intended that to mean after pilot evaluation.

- **Further reduce the size of the pilot in terms of the number of participating children, service provider, and caregivers:**

The proposed Passport pilot population will include all dependency and delinquency children in out-of-home placement supported by foster care funding with a signed consent form to participate. Approximately 35,000 children will be eligible to participate in the pilot. This pilot population consists of approximately 32,000 DCFS foster children and 3,000 Probation foster children. This pilot population includes foster children in different age groups ranging from birth to 18 years old who are placed in different out-of-home placement facility types, such as a foster family home, group home, foster family agency certified home, etc.

The State prefers the pilot population size to be further significantly reduced, suggesting that it be confined to a single, pre-defined geographical area. The State was informed that this might have a significantly adverse effect on the pilot outcome, as the average eligible DCFS and Probation child changes placement between two (2) and three (3) times a year. Therefore, geographically limiting the pilot population could greatly effect the evaluation of the Passport, as only partial information on children who have moved into and out of the pilot area. Additionally, there would be confusion about tracking who was in the program and who was not.

- **Further develop the pilot evaluation plan.**

DOIT is concerned that the current Passport evaluation plan is not sufficient to accurately assess the outcome of the pilot. Our plans are to work with the selected vendor to develop a comprehensive evaluation plan.

They are concerned that a Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COS) product does not exist for Passport and not comfortable with the proposed Internet access technology concept.

The State was provided with the names, address, and contacts for six (6) companies that have expressed interest in being notified when the RFP is released.

Concerns that medical service providers will not participate in Passport is also an issue. They believe the outreach program presented in the APD has not been thoroughly assessed to provide the necessary level of assurance that adequate numbers of medical service providers will actually access and enter data into the Passport. The State was informed that the outreach recommendations in the APD represents suggested possible solutions and that it has always been our intention to work with the selected vendor to develop a successful medical service providers outreach program. Copies of the letter of support received from the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding Passport was provided to the State.

DOF, DOIT, and CDSS are meeting to finalize their comments and positions regarding our responses to their initial comments, questions, and concerns discussed at the May 29th meeting.

CDSS informed the us that ACF would be re-directing staff from the review of the State's APD Update for the Child Welfare Services, Case Management System (CWS/CMS) to focus on the Passport APD, as they have received direction that Passport has priority status. According to information received from our local advocates, ACF is in the process of preparing a detailed analysis of our Passport APD and will be providing the results in the near future.

NEXT STEPS

At this time, the State and Federal department are finalizing their comments. Upon receipt of their comments, a response will be prepared.

CONCLUSION

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or you may contact Alisa Drakodaidis at (213) 893-2477.

DEJ:ASD:RWB

c: Auditor-Controller
Chief Information Officer
Department of Children and Family Services
Department of Health Services
Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Los Angeles County Office of Education